



VHA Innovation Ecosystem



VHA INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM CATALOG

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning

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Welcome!

VHA Innovation Ecosystem (VHA IE) is a catalyst for enabling the discovery and spread of mission-driven healthcare innovation to advance care delivery and service that exceeds expectations, restores hope, and builds trust within the Veteran community. VHA IE leverages the collective power of innovation champions from across VA, academia, other government agencies, and industry to operationalize innovation and scale best practices. Through these collaborations, VHA IE is able to test, replicate, and scale innovations into practice to drive operational value for the enterprise. VHA IE is comprised of three core portfolios that work together to identify, mature, and diffuse innovations across the country.

- **Innovators Network (iNET):** Growing a community of employees whose innovations enhance Veteran healthcare. By taking a ground-up approach and empowering employees, Innovators Network identifies some of VA's greatest challenges then develops Veteran-centric solutions.
- **Diffusion of Excellence:** Identifying and disseminating clinical and operational Promising Practices that standardize enterprise-wide health care improvement initiatives.
- **National Centers for Innovation to Impact:** Collaborating broadly with industry, other government agencies, academia, and throughout VA to create far-reaching positive impact for our Veterans with cutting-edge technologies that enable VHA's mission.
- **Special Projects:** Each portfolio is further supported by our Programs – Community Engagement, Fellowship, and Design & Storytelling. These programs provide the Ecosystem with the frameworks and additional support to advance healthcare innovation in service to our Veterans.

This catalog is designed to outline various opportunities for readers to learn, innovate, and collaborate.





HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN ONE-HOUR LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Tired of seeing the same problems every day when you come into work? In this class you will meet like minded friends and learn about human-centered design (HCD), iNET's problem solving approach.

Timeline	Varies
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	inetsupport@va.gov



CREATING THE PERFECT PITCH

Want help getting your supervisor or leadership team to support your new idea? Pitching is a skill, and iNET is here to help! By the end of this class, you will be ready to create the perfect pitch to help you gain support for your new project or idea.

Timeline	Varies
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	inetsupport@va.gov



BUILDING YOUR INNOVATION STRATEGY

Building an innovation strategy is all about finding a balance between present and future needs. What if the "VA way" could be updated to mean getting rid of practices that are no longer needed and making room to think about the future? Learn more and make new like-minded innovative friends in this class!

Timeline	Varies
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	inetsupport@va.gov



STORYTELLING FOR CHANGE

Having trouble getting support for your new idea? Come to iNET's NEW one-hour storytelling class. By the end of this class, you will understand how to use storytelling to gain leadership support for your new project or idea!

Timeline	Varies
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	inetsupport@va.gov

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IGNITE

“Ignite” is a four-week virtual workshop series open to all VA employees. iNET will introduce new ways of thinking, fire-up your inherent creative problem-solving abilities, and provide an opportunity to network with innovative superheroes. These sessions are designed to introduce and expound upon innovative concepts that you’ll be able to apply directly to your work.

Timeline	March
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	inetsupport@va.gov



INCUBATOR

The Incubator series will help you understand the core values of healthcare innovation and introduce the components of iNET’s core problem solving approach. After listening to these sessions you will walk away with tangible steps you can take to begin understanding and solving problems that arise in your day-to-day work.

Timeline	October-December
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	inetsupport@va.gov



GO FISH!

Go Fish! provides an opportunity for all VHA employees to participate in Spark-Seed-Spread, by matching with an iNET site for application sponsorship! Go Fish! is for Spark investments only Go Fish! is played in the spring prior to the opening of Spark-Seed-Spread applications each summer.

Timeline	April
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	Go Fish Pathfinder





SPARK-SEED-SPREAD

Spark-Seed-Spread is an annual competition that identifies and accelerates employee-driven innovations to improve health care experiences for Veterans, families, caregivers, and employees. iNET identifies deeply committed employees via Spark-Seed-Spread as a sourcing mechanism, then trains them to design differently, as they develop and implement their solution.

Timeline	July
Qualifications	VA Employees, iNET Sites
More Info	Spark-Seed-Spread VHA Innovation Ecosystem



DIFFUSION TALENT ACCELERATOR OPEN APPLICATIONS

The Diffusion Talent Accelerator is a new offering for VISNs and National Program Offices seeking to strengthen their ability to replicate and scale promising practices by dedicating their own FTE to diffusion efforts. This will further strengthen their operations and expand VHA's human talent pool capable of replicating and scaling promising practices. Open call for interested VISNs and National Program Offices begins in January.

Timeline	January-March
Qualifications	VISNs and National Program Offices
More Info	VACODiffusionAccelerator@va.gov



VHA SHARK TANK COMPETITION

VHA Shark Tank Competition shines a spotlight on employees passionate about solving some of the toughest challenges across VHA and provides a platform to expose their practices to all levels of leadership. The Competition invites all VHA employees to submit innovations they have successfully implemented in at least one VHA facility with at least three months of data. To be eligible, practices must address one of the identified priorities. Information sessions for interested innovators are offered in the spring.

Timeline	Spring-Fall
Qualifications	VHA Employees
More Info	VHA Shark Tank Webpage



VHA INNOVATION FELLOWSHIPS

VHA Innovation Ecosystem Fellowships empower seasoned innovative leaders of tomorrow to spread mission-driven advances in health care delivery across VA. The program offers unique experiential learning opportunities for emerging and accomplished VA leaders with a dynamic presence, passion for innovation and vision for the future. Applications open in summer with information sessions offered for interested innovators.

Timeline	June
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	VHA Innovation Fellowships Webpage

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MIT CATALYST FELLOWSHIP

The Catalyst program fosters the development of enabling technologies to address unmet medical needs. Catalyst is appropriate for those with interest and willingness to spend time in research, innovation, and health.

Timeline	July
Qualifications	Open
More Info	MIT Catalyst Webpage



PROGRAM OFFICE OFFERING MENU

Provides VHA IE offerings for VHA Program Office leaders and Network Directors to deliver impact across the organization.

Timeline	Varies
Qualifications	VHA Program Office Leaders and Network Directors
More Info	Pathfinder Innovation

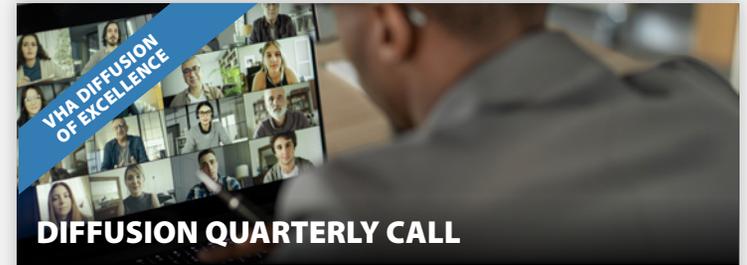




VHA INNOVATION EXPERIENCE (iEX)

VHA Innovation Experience (iEX) is an annual event that provides Veterans and the public a unique opportunity to experience and celebrate how VHA innovation, collaboration, and technology are breaking boundaries, forging the future of Veteran healthcare, and most importantly, changing and saving Veteran lives.

Timeline	October/Fall
Qualifications	VA Employees, VA Leadership, External Partners, Stakeholders
More Info	VHA iEX Webpage



DIFFUSION QUARTERLY CALL

The Diffusion Quarterly calls offers a regular opportunity for Diffusion community members to connect, explore opportunities, and learn more about Diffusion programs. Topics vary, but often include award opportunities, training opportunities, a highlight of a national Diffusion practice, a highlight of a current VHA Shark Tank cohort member, etc.

Timeline	Quarterly
Qualifications	Diffusion Community Members
More Info	VADiffusionSupport@VA.gov



THE EXCHANGE

The Exchange is a unique monthly video panel event hosted by the VHA Innovation Ecosystem. Each month features a fresh new topic and panel, curated just for you, by an arm of the VHA Innovation Ecosystem such as the Innovators Network, Diffusion of Excellence, and more. The Exchange is open to any VA employee who has a passion for innovation or improvement and is seeking to spark some inspiration, indulge in curiosity, combat VA silos, connect with like-minded creatives, and gain exposure to new ways of thinking.

Timeline	Monthly
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	The Exchange' Sign-up Form (must be behind VA firewall)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Explore how to engage your communities across academia, industry, nonprofits, other government agencies, open source challenges, and Veteran Service Organizations.

Timeline	Varies
Qualifications	VA Employees
More Info	Community Pathfinder

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DIFFUSION OF EXCELLENCE COMMUNITY TEAMS

Engage and learn more with the Diffusion of Excellence community through their VA Teams site.

[More Info](#) (must be behind VA firewall)

DIFFUSION MARKETPLACE

A discovery and collaboration tool that curates VA's promising innovations, encourages their diffusion, and fosters engagement with greater healthcare communities.

[More Info](#)

HEALTH CARE COLLABORATION PLAYBOOK

Collaborations can come in many forms, and this playbook will offer the insights and guidance you need to determine the best approach.

[More Info](#)

INET NATIONAL PROGRAMMING TEAMS

Learn more about iNET National Programming through its VA Teams site.

[More Info](#) (must be behind VA firewall)

VA INTRAPRENEURIAL PRODUCT MARKETPLACE

Highlights frontline VA employee innovators and their products available for purchase to put back in the hands of who they were designed with and for, Veterans.

[More Info](#)

VA PATHFINDER

Pathfinder demystifies innovating across Department of Veterans Affairs by providing the tools needed to understand and navigate the process.

[More Info](#)

VHA INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM WEBSITE

Learn more about portfolios, programs, news, and events through VHA Innovation Ecosystem website.

[More Info](#)

ENGAGING VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS TOOLKIT

A playbook for collaborating with VSOs and VEOs which outlines an engagement structure at the national, local, and community levels.

[More Info](#)

COMING SOON!

VA-wide VHA IE SharePoint

Hosting a Hack-a-thon Playbook

Data in Collaborative Projects